

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a plant polypeptide involved in a signal transduction system for brassinosteroid hormone, said polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence from Met at position 1 to Arg at position 1057 of SEQ ID NO: 2 or an amino acid sequence with at least 80% homology to SEQ ID NO: 2,

wherein a plant which has a defect in said polynucleotide exhibits dwarfism, upright form, and malformation of grain hulls.

2 – 11 (canceled)

12. (new) The polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide is derived from a rice plant.

13. (new) The polynucleotide according to claim 2, wherein said polynucleotide comprises the nucleic acid sequence from position 655 to position 3825 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

14. (new) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a plant polypeptide involved in a signal transduction system for brassinosteroid hormone, said polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence from Met at position 1 to Arg at position 1057 of SEQ ID NO: 2 or an amino acid sequence with at least 80% homology to SEQ ID NO: 2,

wherein a plant which has a defect in said polynucleotide is brassinosteroid insensitive.

15. (new) The polynucleotide according to claim 14, wherein said polynucleotide is derived from a rice plant.

16. (new) The polynucleotide according to claim 15, wherein said polynucleotide comprises the nucleic acid sequence from position 655 to position 3825 of SEQ ID NO: 1.